been initiated from this year.

Soil Erosion in Rajasthan

802. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3346 on August 19, 1991 regarding soil erosion in Rajasthan and State:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The information sought from the State Government of Rajasthan is still awaited. This will be laid on the Table of the House after its receipt from the State Government.

Area Under Sand Dunes in Rajasthan

830. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sand from the deserts of Wasa-Ranauli, district Sikar to Pisagan-Govindgarh district Ajmer and other hilly regions has formed dunes upto Jaipur city and in the region of Pushkar valley; and

(b) if so, the area in square kilometres in which these dunes have been formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). There is no conclusive evidence that the sand dunes near Jaipur and in Pushkar Valley have been caused by the spread of desert towards these places in recent times.

Development of Ajmer District

804. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a programme to develop Ajmer District of Rajasthan on priority basis was included in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the development works undertaken in this district; and

(c) whether clearance has been obtained from concerned authorities for maintaining environmental and ecological balance while developing Ajmer and constructing Yatri Niwas there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance on specific proposals received from State Governments and depending upon their merits, inter-se priority and availability of funds. during the Seventh Plan period, the following projects were sanctioned in Ajmer District:-

(i) Improvement and modification of Indira Ghat and Karnighat at Pushkar.

(ii) Tourist complex at Pushkar.

(c) The State Governments, being implementing agencies, are required to obtain necessary clearances before implementing tourism projects.